



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Sugar Creek Township
Allen County
3255 W. State Road
Elida, Ohio 45807

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sugar Creek Township, Allen County, (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

The Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and, as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statements on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the Township as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 21, 2004 on our consideration of the Governments internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Sugar Creek Township
Allen County
Independent Accountants' Report
Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Board and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

May 21, 2004

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$29,663	\$49,332		\$78,995
Intergovernmental	52,516	71,039		123,555
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	2,148	475		2,623
Earnings on Investments	544	50		594
Other Revenue	48	1,844		1,892
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts	84,919	122,740		207,659
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	55,280			55,280
Public Safety	4,010	42,723		46,733
Public Works	2,768	77,372		80,140
Health	665	119		784
Conservation - Recreation	297			297
Capital Outlay	5,827		1,899	7,726
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Disbursements	68,847	120,214	1,899	190,960
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	16,072	2,526	(1,899)	16,699
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	24,275	14,275	2,889	41,439
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$40,347</u>	<u>\$16,801</u>	<u>\$990</u>	<u>\$58,138</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Local Taxes	\$26,552	\$31,357		\$57,909
Intergovernmental	30,326	63,777		94,103
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	1,039			1,039
Earnings on Investments	425	75		500
Other Revenue	295	2,420		2,715
	<u>58,637</u>	<u>97,629</u>		<u>156,266</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	55,034			55,034
Public Safety	4,860	21,258		26,118
Public Works	2,755	80,430		83,185
Health	190	826		1,016
Conservation - Recreation	146			146
Capital Outlay	350	1,000	1,824	3,174
	<u>63,335</u>	<u>103,514</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>168,673</u>
Total Receipts (Under) Disbursements	(4,698)	(5,885)	(1,824)	(12,407)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>28,973</u>	<u>20,160</u>	<u>4,713</u>	<u>53,846</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$24,275</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,275</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,889</u></u>	<u><u>\$41,439</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Sugar Creek Township, Allen County, (the Township), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Elida Community Fire Company Inc. and Monroe Township to provide fire and ambulance services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax money for obtaining fire protection and emergency medical services for the Township.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds are used to account for receipts that are restricted for the acquisition or construction of major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project funds

Permanent Improvement Fund – The Township contracted for the construction of the township maintenance building.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2003 and 2002 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a cash and investments pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2003	2002
Demand deposits	\$33,781	\$17,557
Certificates of deposit	24,357	23,882
Total deposits	\$58,138	\$41,439

Deposits: Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or (2) collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2003 and 2002 follows:

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$71,261	\$84,919	\$13,658
Special Revenue	121,793	122,740	947
Total	\$193,054	\$207,659	\$14,605

2003 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$95,530	\$68,847	\$26,683
Special Revenue	136,003	120,214	15,789
Capital Projects	2,889	1,899	990
Total	\$234,422	\$190,960	\$43,462

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$71,692	\$58,637	(\$13,055)
Special Revenue	105,492	97,629	(7,863)
Total	\$177,184	\$156,266	(\$20,918)

2002 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$100,599	\$63,335	\$37,264
Special Revenue	125,542	103,514	22,028
Capital Projects	4,700	1,824	2,876
Total	\$230,841	\$168,673	\$62,168

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township employees and elected officials belong to the Public Employees Retirement system of Ohio (PERS). PERS is a state operated, cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system. PERS provides retirement benefits to vested employees who are eligible to retire based upon years of service. PERS also provides survivor and disability benefits to vested employees.

Contribution rates are prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. The Township's PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries for 2003 and 2002. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2003.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year.

Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, which the General Reinsurance Corporation will reinsure.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP covers OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$10,000 on any specific loss with an annual aggregate of \$700,000 for 2001 and \$1,250,000 for 2002. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$10,000 if the annual aggregate is reached and all specific losses exceeding \$100,000. APEEP's Operating Fund and Guarantee Fund pay for losses and loss adjustment expenses should they exceed operating contributions.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31 2002 and 2001 (the latest information available):

Casualty Coverage	2002	2001
Assets	\$23,757,036	\$23,703,776
Liabilities	(9,197,512)	(9,379,003)
Retained earnings	<u>\$14,559,524</u>	<u>\$14,324,773</u>
Property Coverage	2002	2001
Assets	\$6,596,996	\$5,011,131
Liabilities	(1,204,326)	(647,667)
Retained earnings	<u>\$5,392,670</u>	<u>\$4,363,464</u>

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Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Sugar Creek Township
Allen County
3255 W. State Road
Elida, Ohio 45807

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sugar Creek Township (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated May 21, 2004 wherein we noted that the Township's financial transactions were processed using the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* consider this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to conduct the audit of the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested operates UAN. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-001. We also noted certain immaterial instances of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated May 21, 2004.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Township in a separate letter dated May 21, 2004.

Sugar Creek Township
Allen County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

May 21, 2004

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or order any expenditure of money unless the certificate of the fiscal officer is attached. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certificate should be considered null and void. If no certificate is issued at the time the contract or order is entered into, the fiscal officer may later certify that there were funds properly appropriated and in the treasury or in the process of collection and such funds are free from previous encumbrance both at the time the contract or order was entered into and at the time of payment. After certifying this, the fiscal officer may proceed to pay for such order or contract. If the amount involved is over \$1,000 (\$3,000 after April 7, 2003), the taxing authority must approve of such payment within 30 days of the date of the fiscal officer's certification.

Nineteen percent of the transactions tested were not properly certified during the audit period. These transactions were in the amount of \$30,492.19 or 29% of the expenditures tested. Then and now certifications were not obtained for these transactions.

The Township should review Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D) and implement procedures for certification of funds. The exceptions should be used when prior certification is not practicable.

**SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ALLEN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain:</i>
2001-001	ORC Sec. 505.602 – Improper insurance payment	Yes	
2001-002	ORC Sec. 5705.41(B) - Expenditures exceeded Appropriations	Partially	See Management Letter Citation
2001-003	ORC Sec. 5705.41(D) - Prior certification of expenditures	No	See finding 2003-001



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

ALLEN COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 29, 2004**